

Talking Points

End the #MuslimBan/ Support the NO BAN Act

The National Council of Jewish Women's (NCJW) Message

As Jews, we know what it's like to seek safety in the US, only to be turned away out of prejudice and under the pretense of "security." We are taught *va'ahavtem et ha-ger* — as we were once strangers, so must we welcome the stranger. It's imperative that we continue to open our communities to those fleeing violence or seeking better lives in the United States, regardless of how they worship. **We urge our elected officials to pass the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act, or the NO BAN Act, and end the Muslim Ban today.**

- **The NO BAN Act (HR 2214/S 1123) is a historic civil rights bill that would repeal the Muslim Ban and prevent similar bans in the future.** The bill would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) by outlawing discrimination in the entry of immigrants or nonimmigrants based on religion. President Trump has used the legal framework justifying the Muslim ban to implement a ban on asylum seekers (currently blocked by the courts). Congress must send the message that blanket bans are not acceptable.
- **The NO BAN Act would protect future immigrants and refugees.** When the US Supreme Court upheld the Muslim Ban, it cited a very broad INA provision that allows the president to prevent people from entering the US. The NO BAN Act tightens this provision and creates much needed limitations and accountability for any president who wishes to use this authority. Future presidents would not be able to ban an entire community without culpability.
- **The Muslim Ban is a threat to religious freedom.** The history of the United States is replete with efforts to demonize and bar entry to groups of people based on their faith under the pretext of national security, including bans against Jews, Catholics, and Mormons. Further, the Muslim Ban validates stereotypes about, and fuels discrimination against, Muslims. The freedom to practice religion without fear of discrimination is a cornerstone of our democracy.
- **The Muslim Ban harms families in the US and around the world every day.** Waivers allowing people covered by the ban to enter the US on a case-by-case basis have so far been granted to only about 6 percent of those who have applied. These denials block people from accessing lifesaving medical treatments, prevent parents from caring for their children, and separate spouses. The stated reason for the ban — that it would reduce terrorism — has been refuted by multiple authorities, including the US Department of Homeland Security.
- **The risks from Muslim immigrants are insignificant, but the costs of keeping them out are real.** Not only do Americans lose out on the economic benefits that immigrants and visitors provide — through spending, employment and entrepreneurship — but we also lose an essential principle that has guided America since its founding: that our nation is a home for all faiths.